

Proponent Testimony for The *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment for Life

Joint Senate Judiciary and House Federal and State Committee

Elijah Brian, Representative of The Lifeguard Initiative

January 21, 2020

Dear Chairman Barker, Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Joint Committee

Unlimited abortion hurts women and children. It is not a Kansas Value. I urge you to support the Value Them Both Amendment to the Kansas Constitution. Kansans deserve a right to vote on this issue:

I oppose taxpayer funded abortion because it compels people who are Pro-life to fund something that they believe is negligent homicide. As a Pro-lifer, it is egregious to me that elective abortion is legal. Under Section 1 of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, "No state shall... deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws".

In the majority decision in *Roe v. Wade*, the justices stated that they were unwilling to define what a "person" is.[1] made viability the standard for which the Equal Protection Clause applies, and then justified that standard simply by stating the definition of viability.[2] Our law means nothing without a definition of "person". This is a problem that the Supreme Court in 1973 decided to sidestep, and we cannot truly have peace in this country on this issue until we can create a law that defines who has rights under the law.

If I could get an amendment passed right now that would declare every human a person under the law, I would do so. I believe that every human has rights, and that every human deserves equal protection under the law. Unfortunately, the federal Constitutional amendment process is difficult, and until enough people are convinced that every human has rights, such an amendment is unlikely to pass.

For now, I plead with you to at least ensure that other Pro-lifers and I in Kansas are not forced to fund something that we believe to be antithetical not only to our morals, but to what we believe is the very purpose of our government.

Please approve the *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment. Give us and others in Kansas the right to make decisions on this contentious issue.

Thank you for this opportunity and for all your work for the people of Kansas.

Respectfully,

Elijah Brian

Citations

1. Library of Congress, <https://cdn.loc.gov/service/l1/usrep/usrep410/usrep410113/usrep410113.pdf>, *Roe v. Wade*, 1973, Opinion of the Court, Page 159, Paragraph 4.
2. Library of Congress, <https://cdn.loc.gov/service/l1/usrep/usrep410/usrep410113/usrep410113.pdf>, *Roe v. Wade*, 1973, Opinion of the Court, Page 163, Paragraph 4, Sentences 1-2.